

18
A
LETTER

TO

Mr. *THOMAS BIGG*,

Late SURGEON of

St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

OCCASIONED BY

His having written a defamatory LETTER to
Dr. ADDINGTON against Dr. RUSSEL of
Reading, which the former clandestinely
communicated to many Persons, in order
to excuse his not answering Dr. RUSSEL'S
LETTER to him, and to obstruct and
hinder the Course of his Practice.

By *RICHARD RUSSEL*, M. D.

*He worketh in the dark as a Mole, and fancieth he
is safe; but he blundereth into Light, and is be-
trayed and exposed with his Dirt on his Head.*

Oecon. of Human Life, Part VI. Sect. 5.

L O N D O N,

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without *Temple-Bar*. MDCCCL

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Publication of this Second LETTER was occasioned by the continuation of the like ungenerous and injurious Treatment, which gave rise to the First; and needs no Apology, being a necessary and proper vindication of myself. The Doctor, who boasts so much of his Education and Degree, finding himself unable to return any public answer to that LETTER, has endeavoured to hide his inability, by affecting a haughty superiority; yet at the same time has had the mean-spiritedness, to stoop to the low office of handing about, in a clandestine manner, a Letter written against me, by one Mr. BIGG, most probably at his own desire and solicitation. Herein I am represented as a person unskilful in my profession, and consequently beneath the notice of this great regular Physician; who, tho' acting perhaps in his medicinal practice according to the rules of Physic, seems in his practices against me, to have forgotten the Rules of morality, good breeding, and honour. On this Occasion, being desirous to know what was alledged against me, I thought proper to apply myself to the Surgeon, the writer of the Letter. From whom having received only an evasive and shuffling answer, it then seemed necessary to apply personally to the Doctor, who had privately imparted and communicated the Letter to several persons.

But being well acquainted with his talent of misrepresenting facts, by adding to them circumstances of his own invention; I had the precaution to take a Gentleman with me, who will attest the truth of what passed at this Interview. At our entrance into the Doctor's House, who had not the manners to ask us to walk into a private room; I desired him to acquaint me with the contents of Mr. BIGG's Letter; which he absolutely refused to do, saying, That I had no right thereto, and that he desired no farther dealings with me. My Answer was to this effect, That I did not in the least value his unjust combination

bination against me; and that if ever I detected him again, in making so free with my character, I would use *more weighty* arguments, than I had hitherto done.

This was the substance of what passed at this interview, of which I hear the Doctor complains most bitterly, and gives a very tragical account; as if I had treated him with all the insolence and rudeness imaginable. This I absolutely deny, and appeal to the Gentleman who was with me; as I do to all those who shall read my two Letters, whether any treatment can be properly called rude and insolent, towards One who has abused me in so scurvy a manner, so inconsistent with the character of a Scholar, a Physician, or a Gentleman.

His unfair and insidious way of attacking me by his Mercenaries, and from his Masked Batteries, obliged me to change the seat of the War by removing my camp to this place: which if I should venture to do, He declared, as I have been informed, that he would certainly answer my Letter. Here I hope to have a plain and open Field for the engagement, which yielding a clear and extensive prospect, I may easily reconnoitre the ground, discover his ambuscades, and deter his Sappers from springing any more Mines, lest they should blow him up and bury themselves in the ruins. Here I shall be under no apprehensions of the success of his intrigues and stratagems in endeavouring to corrupt the Neutral Powers. The experience I have already had of their candour and impartiality, in doing justice to my Prescriptions, assures me, that they will never demean themselves so low, as to become the vile tools of Medicinal Artifice. And they may rest assured themselves, that while they continue to act according to their Character, and the great trust reposed in them, that I shall never attempt the mixing up my own Prescriptions, in so large and populous a Town, where there are so many skilful and faithful Compounders of Medicines.

S I R,

DR. ADDINGTON having pleaded the *advice* of some of his Friends, and of *You* in particular, as the reason for not returning any public Answer to my LETTER, written to him above a year ago; I might look upon this as a sufficient Excuse for my Application to *You*, on the present occasion. But as *You* have thought proper to make yourself a principal in this affair, *You* have absolutely obliged me in justice to myself to take this method. In *your Letter* of *advice* to the Doctor, *You* inserted, if I am rightly informed, by way of *reasons* for that *advice*, several injurious allegations against me, in order to depreciate my character, and represent me as a person not deserving to be answered. This *Letter* the Doctor shews about among his acquaintance, and endeavours to put it off as a kind of *Answer* to mine: and since it is the only one which I now expect, I must endeavour to make this Address subservient to a double purpose, as a *Reply* to him; and as an *Answer* to *You*.

That Dr. ADDINGTON, who values himself so much upon being a Physician, as he terms it, *regularly bred*, should think it necessary to call in a Surgeon to his assistance, in a dispute relating solely to Physicians, may seem a little strange to some Persons: but then they are only such as are unacquainted with your character, and with the

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necessity

necessity of the case. They do not know, that You was formerly a Surgeon of great business in *London*; who, though you might not openly venture upon the practice, had yet, in your own imagination, so much skill in the Theory of Physic, as sometimes to set up for a Judge of the qualifications of Physicians. They do not know the difficulties under which your Friend the Doctor laboured, betwixt the World's expectation of a public written *Answer*, and the impossibility to return a just one. A private vocal *Answer* he had often given, both at home and abroad: but it did not meet with that applause which he expected. The torrent of his eloquence flowed with such impetuosity, that it raised no little mud from the bottom; and, by carrying away the connection of the sentences, left here and there an apparent contradiction. This made his Speeches the subject of ridicule now and then in conversation: which gave succeeding auditors such a prejudice, that they could not forbear smiling at the very opening of his cause, nor restrain their laughter at the close of it. On which account he gladly embraced the opportunity of exchanging the hazardous office of a pleading Counsel, for the more safe and easy employment of a Clerk in Court; and frequently read, with an audible voice, your *Letter* to his select acquaintance: upon whose partiality he thought he could depend, to spread the calumnies against me the more effectually, and by concealing from me the precise words of *your Letter*, to render it impossible for me to refute them.

Though informed early of these clandestine proceedings, I took but little notice of them, having no apprehension of any great detriment from Stories spread in such a low and dark manner, as
shewed,

shewed, that the Spreader himself, though not *ashamed* of what he was doing, was however *afraid* of being called to an account for it. Neither could I think, that a disadvantageous Character, in a *Letter* from any one Person, could have raised a prejudice against me : much less could I imagine, that a weak report that there was such a *Letter*, the contents of which were generally unknown, and only whispered about, should have any influence at all towards lessening my Reputation. But lest I might be mistaken in both respects, I thought it better to endeavour to discover what the aspersions were that had been said to have been cast upon me : with which view I wrote You the following lines.

S I R,

I Have been well informed that Dr. ADDINGTON of Reading, in order to prejudice me in my character, makes frequent use of a Letter said to be wrote by You. And yet I am not conscious, upon the strictest review of my conduct, that I ever gave any just occasion to You, or any man whatever, for aspersion. Certain I am, that I have been misrepresented under the colour of your Letter ; and have great reason to think, that You have been so too, as it will not want for improvement to my disadvantage. And therefore I hope you will be so just, as to let me know the real contents of that Letter, if any was wrote by You. This I think, so far as it concerns me, I may reasonably expect from your general good character, and am,

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

RICHARD RUSSEL.

April 7th,

1750.

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To

To this You was pleased to return me the following Answer; which I have literally copied from the original.

Sr

I rec'd Yours dated y^e 7th Instant, Last November was twel'month Dr ADDINGTON and Dr LEWIS of Oxford came to Wallingford to Visit a Lady I was then with. In y^e Evening Amongst other Discourse Dr ADDINGTON Asked Dr LEWIS's Advice, Whether or not He should consult with You as a Physician You having never taken Any Degree in nor had He heard was ever so much as a Member of either of Our University'ss Dr LEWIS Answered He thought Not, at that time they both Agreed not to Meet You on Consultation as a Physician.

Last Summer After a Letter, s^d to be wrote by You, was Published, wch I never saw, But from what I heard of it from those that had, I found that Dr RUSSEL heretofore of Ware, and Dr RUSSEL of Henley was the same Person, I wrote to Dr ADDINGTON wth my Advice not to give any Answer to y^e Letter but to dispise y^e Contents. And my Reasons were the same that I gave in y^e Committee at CHRIST Hospital Agst Dr RUSSELS being Appointed to have y^e Care of y^e diseased Children at Hertford, When He Petitioned for that Employment, Not that I opposed Dr RUSSEL out of ill Will to y^e Man, but purely out of Regard to y^e poor Children and that Trust reposed in me, this Sr As near as I can guess, was y^e Contents of y^e Letter I wrote to Dr ADDINGTON.

Sr

10th April 1750.

Your humble Servant,

THO' BIGG.

This

This Answer being not at all satisfactory, I wrote you a second *Letter* in these words.

S I R,

I Had the favour of Yours, and should have been glad if You had been a little more particular in it, which would have prevented my giving You this second trouble. You are very sensible, that the Candidates are never present at the debates of a Committee in your Hospital: and therefore I could not well be supposed to know the Reasons alledged by You, in that debate, to which your Letter refers me, in regard to what you have writ to Dr. ADDINGTON concerning me. I beg therefore that You will be so good as to favour me with those Reasons; and thereby give me an opportunity of justifying myself to You, in whose good opinion I am very desirous to stand clear: and I do not doubt from your known character but that You yourself will be glad to be set right in this matter, if I can convince You that You have been misinformed concerning me. We all know very well it is no uncommon thing in all kinds of Elections for the Candidates to be misrepresented and aspersed, which may be the case of,

S I R,

April 18th, 1750.

Your humble Servant,

RICHARD RUSSEL.

To this you have not vouchsafed to return one single word; and by this silence have plainly shewed, that You little deserve the Character I allowed You. For You, who are my Accuser, inform others, but will not inform me, of the crime with
which

which You charge me; imposing upon me the necessity of first finding it out, in order to clear myself of it. This is acting in a very arbitrary and unreasonable manner: for the only direction You give me, in order to the discovery, is much like that given by * SYRUS to DEMEA in the Comedy; where the sly servant imposes upon his old master by a blind and false direction, and sends him on a fool's errand to find out his brother MITIO. You refer me to a Speech, in a Committee at *Christ's Hospital*, which was made by You above seven Years ago; the contents of which, at so great a distance of time, You, no doubt, thought it impossible for me to recover. But, as it luckily happens, I think myself able to convince You to the contrary: for I have in my hands an *Answer* to that very Speech, as it was represented to me by some who heard it; drawn up immediately after the delivery of it, and designed to have been published soon after. From this *Answer* I shall transcribe a few extracts, which I think as proper for your perusal now, as they would have been formerly; or rather more so, since I may venture to recommend them, as a certain remedy against an infirmity, to which You seem very subject, a voluntary forgetfulness.

Upon the first report that Dr. WALLEY intended to resign his place of Physician in that branch of CHRIST'S Hospital which is at *Hertford*, which happened, I think, in *July* 1742, a Friend of mine waited upon Mr. DANSIE, Surgeon, who, together with You and a few more, had been newly added to the Committee of Al-

* TERENCE, *Adelpb.* Act. IV. Sc. 2.

moners. My Friend's request was, to desire his vote and interest, for my removal to *Hertford* from *Ware*, where I had taken care of the health of the Children with good success, for above two years; for the truth of which, he appealed to the result of any enquiry that might be made about it. And for farther knowledge, Mr. DANSIE was referred to an intimate acquaintance of his, who had promised to speak to him in my favour. Mr. DANSIE seemed to approve of all that my Friend had said; who took his leave perfectly satisfied with his answer, being as favourable as he could desire upon the first application. But it happened unfortunately, that the Gentleman forgot to perform his promise. So that when Dr. WALLEY had actually resigned, and I with my Friend waited personally upon that great Surgeon to engage and secure his interest, we met with a denial attended with a reception too shocking to mention.

Though this rebuff disconcerted me not a little, I soon recovered myself, upon application to other Electors; who received me in as civil a manner, and dismissed me with as kind an answer, as I could reasonably expect. Among the rest, *your* civility was very remarkable; when with a smiling countenance, and in a very gracious manner, You told me at *Child's* Coffee-House, that You should only beg leave to make some inquiry concerning what I said; that You should consult with others, and determine according to the best of your Judgment. This gave me great hopes, that your determination would be in my favour; since my behaviour and success in the Hospital at *Ware*, I imagined, would naturally

turally incline You, upon inquiry and consultation, to promote my pretensions.

This unsuspected dissimulation of yours, when discovered, made the rude and unmannerly treatment from your noisy Brother DANSIE seem less deserving resentment. His was sincere, though rough; prevented a good deal of trouble, and loss of time in attendance; and put me upon my guard against him as an open and professed enemy. On the contrary, *your* smiling civility amused and kept me in a state of dependence, led me on in vain hopes by your pretending to be undetermined in your choice, and to be directed by the best information You could get: when at that very time You had actually engaged, in concert with your Brother Surgeon, to promote the interest of the other Candidate; and was then exerting your utmost endeavours in his favour. In short, that Candidate having been bred a Surgeon, this gave him, in the opinion of You Both, a qualification superior to all others; You made a point of it, and resolved to bring him in, if possible, in opposition to a Physician.

When the Election came on, your Brother Surgeon began, in a *Stentorean* voice, which was distinctly heard in the adjacent rooms; a voice more proper to command and terrify, than to persuade and engage; and I was well assured, that *You* in a softer tone only repeated and enlarged upon the topics of your Brother's invective; so that your Speech was no more than a faint echo of his vociferation.—The whole of what You said turned upon these two Assertions, That there was more occasion for a Surgeon than a Physician, to take care of the Hospital at *Hertford*; and that I knew nothing at all

of

of Surgery. I shall not trouble You with the particular examination of these two Assertions; but shall only observe just as much from it, as will be sufficient to shew the falsity of them both.

As to the First, no more is necessary than to settle the true meaning of the term *Surgeon*, and the nature of the *Hospital* in question. A *Surgeon* denotes one, who having served an apprenticeship, and practised for some time on his own account, is presumed to have attained a perfect knowledge of the art in all its branches. The *Hospital* at *Hertford* is no more than a Building set apart for the maintenance and education of boys and girls. To what disorders and maladies are such as these most exposed? Are they more subject to Fractures and Ulcers, than to Fevers and other common distempers? Though the question was solely concerning such an Hospital as this, You had certainly uppermost in your mind, either the Hospitals of *St. Bartholomew* and *St. Thomas*, or those of *Kingsland* and *Kent-street*: in these a Surgeon may be more necessary than a Physician. But what think You of the Hospitals of *Bedlam* and *Bridewell*? Can You affirm, that Surgeons are more necessary than Physicians there; unless You allow the Keepers in the one, and those who are obliged to give the necessary corrections in the other, to be a sort of *Chirurgeons*, since they both so frequently make use of manual operation, and the latter let blood with as great dexterity, and *with as much safety* at least, as Yourself? And I may defy You to assign a good reason, why a Surgeon is more proper or necessary than a Physician at an Hospital for the education of Children, than at one

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which

which is appropriated to the Idle or to the Distracted.

In proof of your second Assertion, You alledged only this short argument, “ He knows nothing
“ at all of Surgery ; for where could he learn it ?
“ He was indeed, as I have heard, a little while
“ in an Apothecary’s shop ; but what Surgery
“ could he learn there ? ” This double interrogation, like a two-edged lancet, cut both ways ; insinuating, that as I knew nothing of Surgery, so all that I knew of Physic was acquired during the little time that I was (as You say) in an Apothecary’s shop. At present I shall only consider the force of the Argument contained in this double Question, as it relates to Surgery. “ He knows
“ nothing of Surgery ; for where could he learn
“ it ? ” That is, He knows nothing of it, because I don’t know where he could learn it. As weak as this way of arguing may seem, it happened to pass current with the Majority of the Committee, though some of the Minority returned a sufficient answer, by saying, The Doctor gave full satisfaction to this Committee, as to his knowledge of such parts of Surgery as Physicians ought to be acquainted with, and which were sufficient for our Hospital at *Ware*, when we chose him to take care of it ; and the constant success he has had there is a demonstrative proof, that he did not impose upon us by pretences to any skill which he had not.

But no reasons could have had any influence upon You or your brother Surgeon, who came thither, not to debate and canvas the matter, in order to chuse the Candidate that should appear to be the most proper ; but who, having fix’d
upon

upon the Person, and engaged a * bare majority of Votes, had nothing to do but to prate a little for form's sake, and then to call for the question. Had not this been the case, You would never have ventured to expose yourself to the ridicule, which might have been justly levelled at You for your paradoxical and absurd way of talking. You represented a Physician totally ignorant of the little trivial Cases in Surgery; and yet, at the same time, You recommended a Surgeon, as such an adept in Physic, that he was the properest person to take care of the same Children in all manner of distempers. What could occasion such a vast difference in our parts and abilities? Why, according to your account, nothing but the happy circumstance of having served an apprenticeship to a regular Surgeon, and thereby attained to the same dignity. This is, in your opinion, a qualification superior to any that is generally acquired by study, languages, and travel.

That the Gentlemen of the Committee had no such high opinion of the necessity of Surgery in its fullest acceptation, nor even of its use in their Hospital, preferable to Physic, is evident from their allowance of Bills, specifying each particular relating to Physic, which amount annually to a considerable sum; but lumping all that regards Surgery in general for a whole year, and limiting it to the trifling sum of *Six pounds*. This is a full proof, that they looked upon the diseases of their Children, which stood in need of medicinal prescriptions, to require the greatest knowledge and attendance. And this, no doubt, determined

* I was informed that I lost the Election but by one single Vote.

them to the choice of Physicians, rather than Surgeons both at *Ware* and *Hertford*, leaving those Physicians at liberty to call in a Surgeon whenever occasion should require. Upon which account, it cannot but seem strange, that You should have the assurance to advance an Assertion so directly contrary to the Committee's former sentiments and practice; and stranger, I think, that you should not be more vigorously opposed in it.

For how easily might the whole harangues of you Both have been answered in this or the like short manner? “ Pray, Gentlemen, how came
 “ you Two, who have been so little time of this
 “ Committee, and never at an election of this
 “ nature before, to take so much upon You, as to
 “ presume to direct us in our present choice, and
 “ at the same time to condemn us for our past?
 “ According to You, we were guilty of great folly,
 “ in chusing a Physician at *Ware*, who did not
 “ understand the whole art of Surgery, and re-
 “ jecting a * Candidate, who, having been bred
 “ a Surgeon, could not but understand it. And
 “ this folly, for want of Two Surgeons amongst
 “ us, has been so habitual and inveterate, that we
 “ have not taken one right step almost these twenty
 “ years, by always chusing Physicians into the
 “ two branches of our Hospital. — This present
 “ meeting was appointed *for the Election of a*
 “ *Physician*, these are the very words of the Sum-
 “ mons: according to which, we are no more
 “ impowered to elect a *Surgeon*, than a *School-*
 “ *master*, at this time; nor can we any more con-
 “ vert one of these into the other, than we can all

* There was a Surgeon candidate with me when I was elected at *Ware*.

“ three into Matrons or Nurfses.—No person, unac-
 “ quainted with the nature of our Hospital at *Hert-*
 “ *ford*, but would have neceſſarily concluded from
 “ your Speeches, that it was a receptacle for Crip-
 “ ples or diſeaſed people, and moſt likely a Branch
 “ of your *St. Bartholomew’s*, or of your Brother’s
 “ *Lock* at *Kingſland*. Without this ſuppoſition,
 “ there is no reaſoning, no conſiſtency in what
 “ either of You have ſaid; who, to prove an
 “ equal neceſſity for the ſkill of Surgeons in the
 “ care of our Children, ſhould have proved them
 “ equally obnoxious to thoſe diſeaſes and misfor-
 “ tunes, which are the ſubjects of your art in
 “ thoſe other Hospitals. — In ſhort, Gentle-
 “ men, be content with giving your own votes as
 “ you pleaſe, but do not pretend to lead us by
 “ the ears, much leſs by the noſes; which
 “ being perfectly ſound, have no occaſion for your
 “ handling. For your eloquent harangues prove
 “ nothing but your partiality to your own frater-
 “ nity; and your insolence in treating this whole
 “ Committee, as ignorant and void of common
 “ ſenſe, till you vouchſafed to bring ſome among
 “ us.”

I wonder what extemporary Reply either *You* or
your Brother could have made to this; and ima-
 gine, that the only way to ſhew that You could
 have made any then, will be for You Yourſelf to
 make ſome now, after ſo long deliberation. And
 this, I think, you ſhould be the rather induced to
 do, ſince it cannot but be grateful to your Friends;
 who will be glad to ſee ſome kind of juſtifica-
 tion of their conduct, in acting all contrary to
 what they did about two years before, ſeveral
 contrary to their repeated declarations, and ſome
 contrary to expreſs promiſes.

It was necessary for me to be thus particular in the relation of a Transaction that passed above seven Years ago : because my presumption in appearing as a Candidate for a Physician's place against a Surgeon, was the sole cause of your malicious invective against me at that time ; and because You refer me to that very invective, for the substance of that revived scandal, which You have so lately propagated against me. *You wrote to Dr. ADDINGTON, You own, with your advice not to give any answer to my Letter, but to dispise the contents : and your Reasons were the same, You say, that you gave in the Committee against my being appointed to have the care of the diseased Children at Hertford. —* Now, according to the account, given me by persons who heard that Speech, and within a day or two after You delivered it, all that You said in diminution of my character was, “ That I knew nothing of Surgery, or, as I “ suppose you must mean, that I was not bred “ a Surgeon.” Could this be any Reason why Dr. ADDINGTON should follow *your Advice* not to answer my Letter, but to dispise the contents ? As that Letter regarded Physic alone, what signified it whether I understood Surgery or not ? You might as well have assigned it as the reason of your *advice*, that I did not understand any thing else that is unnecessary to Physic. But in the few words which you presently add, you let me farther into the contents of your Letter to Dr. ADDINGTON, than I have reason to think You designed. *Not that I opposed Dr. RUSSEL, say You, out of ill will to the man, but purely out of regard to the poor Children, and that trust reposed in me.* This is at one and the same time very tender, and very severe ; mighty conscientious, and exceedingly malicious.

malicious. For it represents me so very ignorant of Physic, as well as Surgery, (there being no limitation to the latter) as to be utterly unfit to be trusted with the care of these Children; who are here emphatically called *poor*, as being not unlikely to fall under such unskilful hands as mine, by which it is plainly intimated that others had already suffered.

But this addition is contradictory to the preceding Assertion, That your *Reasons* in the Letter were the same which you gave in the Committee. For it is certainly one thing, to say only, That I knew nothing of Surgery; and it is another, to say, That You opposed me out of regard to the poor Children, and that trust reposed in You. The former will bear this interpretation, That though I did not understand any thing of Surgery, yet I might possibly know somewhat of Physic: but the latter excludes all knowledge, both of the one and of the other.—There is likewise another circumstance, which shews that the *Reasons* by You given in the Committee, and those given in the Letter, were not the very same: in the former no particular instance whatever of my unskilful or unsuccessful practice was alledged; in the latter some mention was made of a *Scalped head* uncured at *Ware*, as I have been lately informed. And that I am rightly informed I make no doubt; since it is otherwise unaccountable, how this particular Case should come to be talked of at this Town, upon the Doctor's shewing your Letter. Hence it is evident, that when You tell me, that the *Reasons* that You gave him for your advice were THE SAME that You gave in the Committee, You endeavour only to impose upon me.

That

That You might have heard some story of this kind, either from my Antagonist, or from persons in his interest, when the Election at the Hospital at *Hertford* was coming on, is not at all improbable: it being common at such times, for false and scandalous reports to be dispersed about, in order to raise a prejudice in the Electors, against one Candidate, in favour of another.—— But supposing this report, whatever it was, to have been true; it could be of no consequence as to me, even had I been a Surgeon. For I dare say, *You of all men* will not venture to affirm, that a single instance of ill success in the practice of Surgery will prove a total ignorance of the Art: lest You should thereby reduce yourself to the same level, upon which you would place me. But that You did not really believe this report yourself, seems to me very probable, from your not mentioning it before the Committee. To some of them in whom You could confide, 'tis not unlikely You might communicate it: but it was too dangerous to expose such a random trifling story to the examination of my friends in that assembly.—— We will however, at present, suppose it to be true, and that it shewed my ignorance of Surgery; yet it will by no means account for your violent opposition to me, out of your great *regard to the poor Children, and to the trust reposed in You*. That must proceed, if the reason assigned be true, from a full belief of such an ignorance in me, with respect to Physic, as well as Surgery, which rendered me altogether unfit for the care of them. And how could that ignorance be sufficiently known to You, but by some instances of my bad practice in the Hospital at *Ware*? And yet You did not pretend to produce any one instance of that
kind

kind before the Committee; which is a strong presumptive proof that You really did not know of any.—And indeed it was impossible You should, since I knew of none myself. In confidence of which, my address to every one of the Electors was to this purpose: “ Sir, having been
 “ in your service, as Physician to your Hospital
 “ at *Ware*, for about two years, I hope my constant care of your Children, which has been
 “ attended with good success, will recommend
 “ me to a repetition of your favour, by promoting my removal to your Hospital at *Hertford*.” To this the much greater part at that time answered, That my request seemed very reasonable. Having thus, as I imagined, secured a majority of persons of the greatest fortune and reputation, I did not think it necessary to ply them with repeated solicitations from others, which I might have easily procured. Being willing to put my interest with them solely upon that footing, which they themselves seemed intirely to approve, my past behaviour, and success in their service; I thought it would be a mark of my distrust, either of their sense, or their sincerity, to trouble them with importunities from their acquaintance; for which several had assured me that I had no manner of occasion, and others, that they should not in the least be influenced by them. Had I been conscious of any very ignorant or unsuccessful practice, I should probably have acted in a quite different manner; and endeavoured to over-balance the prejudice it would have raised against me, by a more assiduous attendance upon the Electors, a more frequent and various application to them, and by many other little arts commonly practised in Elections; of which, though I could not be ignorant, yet I scorned to make use of them. But

I found too late, from the cabals of You and your Brother Surgeon, that all the little artifices which I disclaimed had been employed against me; and that plain and open dealing was not solely to be depended upon. However, I had this satisfaction under my disappointment, that it was occasioned by my having too good an opinion of mankind, that I had used no dishonourable methods, and that I lost the election but by one Vote, and with more reputation than it was gained by my adversary.

Barely to relate such a conduct as this, is sufficient to expose it. Two Surgeons, being unexpectedly added to a Committee of Almoners, resolved to bring in, at the very first time they ever appeared in such a Committee, a brother Surgeon to be Physician to the Children at *Hertford*, in opposition to the Physician to the Children at *Ware*; who had taken care of them with constant success for near two years, and therefore thought he had some kind of title to the favour of a removal. To prevent this the two Surgeons, without the least proof of his incapacity, represent him as an improper person: the one, with confidence, noise, and nonsense, foaming and roaring like a torrent, and bearing down all before him; the other, like a smooth, gentle stream, purling and murmuring along, and insensibly undermining the ground whereon I stood.

Having thus faithfully, Sir, represented your malevolent and treacherous conduct towards me, in hindering my being elected at *Hertford* above seven years ago, of which I hear You have so frequently boasted; and having shewn the falshood of your pretences in your late evasive *Letter* to me, *That the Reasons You gave Dr. ADDINGTON*
against

against answering my LETTER were the same which You gave in the Committee against my election; I shall now make some observations upon some other parts of your Letter to me, of which I have not hitherto taken any notice.

Last Summer after a Letter *s^d* to be wrote by You, was Published, wch I never saw ——— I wrote to Dr Addington with my Advice not to give Any Answer to y^e Letter but to dispise the contents. Did the DOCTOR, by writing or otherwise, ask your Advice, Whether he should answer that Letter or not? If he did, it must be on supposition that You had read it, or would soon do it: it being not in the least probable, that he would ask any man's opinion, What it was proper for him to do in relation to a Letter, which he knew that Person had *never seen*, nor ever intended to read. If he did not, the least that can be said of your Advice is, that it was impertinently officious.——But it was really much worse, being injurious to the world, and to your Friend the DOCTOR, as well as to myself.

When a person has received injury from another in his character, and cannot procure any redress in a legal way, his only remedy is to accuse the Aggressor, and to bring him before the bar of the Public, as the most proper judge. When this has been done, all persons, who take upon them to appear in the affair, are obliged to speak *the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth*. How far then from the character of a just person must He be, who endeavours to stifle and suppress the truth? who, appearing in behalf of the accused, not only declines saying any thing himself in answer to the accusation, but even *ad-*

wifes him to return no answer at all; but to rely solely upon the superiority of his circumstances, and to *despise* whatever had been justly advanced against him by his accuser? The natural consequence of which must be a random and unjust judgment; since many will pass sentence, not according to any certain information, but according to uncertain reports, and their own particular fancies or affections.—Next to an absolute denial of the authority of any judicature, an obstinate silence in refusing to plead is the greatest indignity that can be offered to it: which being justly looked upon as equivalent to a confession of the charge, is attended with a punishment sometimes more severe, than would have been inflicted, had it been proved by the most undeniable evidence. Thus the Public, being unjustly kept from that information which it ought to receive, is exposed to the hazard of passing a wrong judgment, and the accused person to all the inconveniences attending it. And therefore your conduct towards your Friend, whom You would have the world believe to be intirely innocent, is really unaccountable; being to him, though undesignedly, as injurious, as it was designedly to the Public.—But to me it was most of all so, not only hindering me, as far as possibly You could, from receiving any satisfaction for the injuries I had received, but likewise loading me with new.

What has been here said might have been sufficient in answer to your *Advice*, even on supposition, that you had read my *Letter*, before you gave it: but since you declare by way of contempt, that *You never saw it*, it will not be improper to add a few words with respect to that wise declaration. It is somewhat strange, that a
Letter,

Letter, which was soon dispersed in two *Editions*, and made some noise in the world, should not excite your curiosity, as well as that of so many Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries.

——But it is perhaps your way, not to read any thing, written by a person whom You dislike. Yet, as this *Letter* was the very subject matter, about which You was going to give your *advice*, one would imagine, that on this particular occasion, You might for once have dispensed with a rule laid down, only for your own observation.

——But it is possible, You might think your extempore *Advice*, without any previous inquiry, would be as good, as if it had been the result of the maturest deliberation. And so I own it was, since to *advise* a person not to *answer a Letter*, which he could not *answer*, might be done as well before, as after reading it.——This, however, will by no means excuse You, who advised your Friend, not only *not to give any answer to my Letter, but to despise* [in true spelling *despise*] *the contents*. How could You give this *advice*, without knowing, whether they deserved to be *despised* or not? and how could You know this, without knowing what they were? It was easy, indeed, for the Doctor to follow the former part of your *advice*, by doing nothing: but to observe the latter, it was necessary to employ his judgment in examining minutely *the contents* of my *Letter*; lest by pretending to *despise* That, which was judged by others to be a just vindication of myself, he might render himself *despicable*.

But it may be imagined, that though You *never saw* my *Letter*, yet You might have heard *the contents* from others. This You do not in the least pretend to have done: for your words
are,

are, *Last Summer after a Letter, ſ^d to be wrote by You was Published, wch I never ſaw, But from what I heard of it from thoſe that had, I found that Dr Ruſſel heretofore of Ware, and Dr Ruſſel of Henley was the ſame Perſon, I wrote to Dr Addington, &c.* All that can be juſtly inferred from this nonſenſical period (for ſuch it certainly is) is no more than this, *That from what You heard of my Letter from thoſe that had ſeen it, You found nothing but that Dr. RUSSEL of Ware, and Dr. RUSSEL of Henley was the ſame perſon: and therefore, or thereupon, You wrote to Dr. ADDINGTON with your advice, &c.* Your whole reaſoning therefore in this place muſt run thus: *Dr. RUSSEL, heretofore of Ware, being a perſon of little or no ſkill, could write nothing but what deſerved to be deſpiſed: Dr. RUSSEL of Henley is the very ſame individual Perſon: Therefore Dr. RUSSEL of Henley can write nothing but what deſerves to be deſpiſed.* Such fine reaſoning as this ſhews indeed ſuch excellent abilities, that, for my part, I will not preſume to diſpute your right to the privilege, which You ſeem to claim, of characteriſing perſons whom You *never* knew, of cenſuring Books which You *never* read, of giving your *advice* upon the contents of *Letters* which You *never ſaw*. Nay, if You inſiſt upon it, ſince it is equally reaſonable and practicable, I will not oppoſe You in uſing the like method in your ſurgical operations; You may, if You pleaſe, undertake the rankeſt venereal caſe without any inſpection, You may uſe your probe and your ſyringe blindfold, and let blood in the dark to ſhew your dexterity.

Having

Having considered every part of your *Letter* to me, in which *You* are principally concerned, I shall now make some observations upon the first part of it; which I passed by before, because it relates to Dr. LEWIS, Dr. ADDINGTON, and Myself, running thus. *Sir, I rec'd yours dated y^e 7th Instant, Last November was twel'month Dr. Addington and Dr. Lewis of Oxford came to Wallingford to Visit a Lady I was then with In the Evening Amongst other Discourse Dr. Addington Asked Dr. Lewis's Advice, Whether or not He should consult with You as a Physician You having never taken Any Degree in nor had he heard, was ever so much as a Member of either of Our University's Dr Lewis Answered He thought not, at that time they both agreed not to meet You n Consultation as a Physician.* Whoever, being unapprised of the dispute betwixt Dr. ADDINGTON and me, attentively compares this with my first *Letter* to *You*, can never imagine, that this paragraph was ever intended as an Answer to any particular part of it. My sole inquiry was, What were the contents of *your Letter* sent to Dr. ADDINGTON concerning me? Your evasive Answer begins with a formal story about Dr. ADDINGTON's and Dr. LEWIS's meeting *You* at Wallingford; which has no manner of relation to my inquiry.—.And yet I cannot charge you with beginning thus oddly, merely by chance, and at random; having reason to think, that it was done by design, and with a politic view to advance insensibly some kind of Apology for some of your great Friend the Doctor's many inconsistencies and false pretences. The grand and capital pretence, which he laid down as the foundation of his

his strange treatment of me, was, * “ That he lay
 “ under an obligation, which hindered him from
 “ joining in Consultation with me, having en-
 “ tered into an † *Agreement* some time before,
 “ with Dr. FREWIN and Dr. PITT of Oxford,
 “ Dr. HAYES of Windsor, and Dr. ZINZAN of
 “ Reading, not to consult with any of the Pro-
 “ fession, who had not taken a Degree either at
 “ Oxford or Cambridge.” In answer to this, I
 told him, that “ This could not but seem very
 “ strange to me, with whom the last had actually
 “ consulted, and with whom Dr. HAYES had
 “ declared his willingness to consult.” In my
Letter I afterwards informed him, that Dr. HAYES
 “ || declared that he had never entered into any
 “ such Agreement with him;” that Dr. PITT

* *Letter to Dr. ADDINGTON, p. 10.*

† See an instance of a *real Agreement* similar to this *pre-
 tended* one in *An Account of a Medical controversy in the City of
 Cork*, where Dr. BLAIR was unjustly and ungenerously at-
 tacked by four Physicians; who, being alarmed at his having
 cured a patient whom they had all given over, “ drew up a
 “ *Paper* to be signed by all the Physicians they could in-
 “ fluence, or terrify, and which was signed by a certain
 “ number; containing a *mutual combination of all the Persons who
 “ put their names to it, binding them up, from consulting with
 “ Dr. BLAIR, under certain particular penalties therein mentioned.*
 “ But this soon dissolved of itself, as an *illegal deed*, which
 “ was found to be rather more detrimental to the gentlemen
 “ who signed it than to any other: so that it remains only in
 “ remembrance here, as a *Ruin* and a *Wreck* of that storm,
 “ which raged only at the expence of those who raised it;
 “ whereas it has rolled on to answer all the good purposes
 “ their adversary could have desired or expected from the
 “ strongest sunshine of their favour; like the seemingly con-
 “ tradicting and secondary causes of elemental strife, that
 “ operate in Nature for bringing forward the general
 “ good. Page 40.

|| *Ibid. p. 31.*

had

had said, “ * That the Physicians of Oxford
 “ never refuse to consult with those of a Foreign
 “ degree, provided they have also a *Licence* from
 “ the College of Physicians in London:” and as
 to Dr. FREWIN, I had before shewed “ † the
 “ improbability of his entering with *Him* into
 “ any such ingagement.”

All that Dr. ADDINGTON, by way of reply to this, has ever advanced in any of his vocal harangues, as far as I have been informed, is, That he did not name Dr. FREWIN, and that Dr. PITT meant such a *Licence* from the College as impowers a person to practise Physic within the Bills of mortality.—In contradiction to this, I aver, that he did name Dr. FREWIN in the first place ; and I appeal even to You, Whether it be not as probable, that he should mention him, tho’ he had made no such *Agreement* with him, as that he should name Dr. HAYES, with whom likewise he had made none.

And as to the distinction betwixt *Extra-Licentiates*, allowed to practise any where but in London and within seven miles thereof, and *Intra-Licentiates* impowered to practise likewise there ; with which latter only it is pretended that Dr. PITT meant “ the Physicians of Oxford never
 “ refused to consult ;” this seems to be no other than an arbitrary assertion, not warranted by any custom, but trumped up on this occasion, only to serve a turn, and merely in opposition to me. The *Licences* for both kinds of *Licentiates* run in almost the very same terms : and where they are different, if they seem more to the advantage of the *Intra-Licentiate* in one respect, they are

* *Ibid.* p. 31.

† *Ibid.* p. 19, 20.

more so to the *Extra-Licentiate* in another*.

That Dr. ADDINGTON had no notion at all of this distinction, at least that he had no regard to it, is evident, both from the *Agreement*, into which he pretended to have entered, and from his own conduct at that very time, and since. For that *Agreement* was general, exclusive of all Physicians, *who had not taken a degree, either at Oxford or Cambridge*, and consequently of all such, as well *Intra* as *Extra-Licentiates*. And his practice, tho' directly contrary to this *Agreement*, proves the very same thing: for at that very time he consulted with Dr. COLLETT of *Newbury*, who had only a Foreign degree, and was only an *Extra-Licentiate*, as well as Myself. By way of excuse for which inconsistency, he has since pleaded, that tho' Dr. COLLETT did not take a degree at either of our Universities, yet he had been for some little time a member of a college at one of them. But this will by no means bring Dr. ADDINGTON off, and reconcile his conduct with his *Agreement*; which allowed of no exception in favour of any of those, who had been entered, and only stayed a little time at either University. And indeed such an exception would have rendered this *Agreement* still more unreasonable and ridiculous: for what could the bare entry of a man's name in the College-books contribute to the proper qualifications of a Physician? However it is said, that thinking better, or rather worse of this matter afterwards, to render his conduct more consistent

* With regard to the former the words are, *examinâsse et permisisse doctum et probum virum*; to the latter, *examinâsse et approbâsse probum virum*; who is not limited by any conditional clause of *quamdiu se bene gesserit*, as the other is.

for the future, he refused to consult with Dr. COLLETT; upon which he had the mortification to find himself discarded from attending upon an Honourable Family.

This in some measure accounts for the oddness of the beginning of your *Letter*, the design of which was (no doubt) to justify Dr. ADDINGTON's conduct, by the authority of Dr. LEWIS. On which occasion You bring them Both upon the stage very abruptly; and represent the former as endeavouring to shew the latter, How improper a person I was to be consulted with, by alledging against me the not having been a Member of one of our Universities, which Dr. COLLETT had been. And this argument had it seems such an influence upon Dr. LEWIS, that according to your account, when Dr. ADDINGTON asked him, Whether he should consult with me or not, he answered immediately *He thought Not*.

The scene of this short but comic Dialogue, You tell me, was *Wallingford*, at a *Lady's* where You *then was*, I suppose on a consultation; and the time was in the month of *November* 1748. Now since Dr. ADDINGTON, in the preceding *July*, had refused to consult with me, because he had before made an *Agreement* with the Doctors FREWIN, PITT, HAYES, and ZINZAN, by which he was obliged *not to consult*; it is somewhat strange, that four months after he should ask advice of Dr. LEWIS, Whether he should do it or not? I know, it is usual in approaches towards matrimony, to ask advice, after the party is engaged, or at least determined what to do: but I did not know, that it was agreeable to the practice of grave Physicians. Dr. ADDINGTON was under an absolute engagement *Not*

to do the very thing, about which, You say, he then asked his Friend's advice, Whether he should do it or not? If he was determined to act according to his engagement, as one would imagine any honest man should be, he trifled egregiously with his Friend: if he was not, he had imposed upon me; he put a great affront upon four Doctors (the greater as Dr. LEWIS was their Junior); and shewed no regard at all to his own word and promise.

Had Dr. LEWIS's advice happened to prove in the affirmative, it would most sadly have *dilemmaed* your dear Friend: but he, luckily producing his new argument against me, that I had never been a Member of either of our Universities, so thoroughly convinced Dr. LEWIS, that he immediately pronounced a decisive Negative against me. At this I cannot but wonder, because I find soon after he was deliberately doing somewhat, more inconsistent with this decision, than Dr. ADDINGTON's consulting with Dr. COLLETT. For he was engaged in a Correspondence (a favour of a much higher nature than a mere accidental Consultation) with a Physician, who took his degree abroad, and even wanted the two qualifications which Dr. COLLETT had. This perhaps he did with a view, not only to countenance Dr. ADDINGTON in his conduct, but likewise to go beyond it; and shew, that *he* possessed a dispensing power in a greater degree, could overlook the want of the two qualifications required, and treat an exotic Physician, because he was not settled within the sphere of his practice, with all the deference and respect, which he could have used towards the most illustrious of any of our University Physicians.—He concludes one of his Epistles

files to this Gentleman in the following manner.

* “ This is all, most accomplished Sir, that I
 “ have to communicate to You at present; nor
 “ will I by any means detain You longer with
 “ more. For I should think myself unjust to
 “ mankind, if by this trifling Letter I should
 “ farther waste your most precious time, which
 “ You employ so successfully in the care of the
 “ diseased: go on therefore to restore health to
 “ miserable mortals; go on still to cultivate our
 “ Art by your genius, to illustrate it by your
 “ writings, to support it by the reputation of
 “ your name. In the mean while, pardon my
 “ arrogance, for having presumed to lay before
 “ You, who are so great a judge of Medicine,
 “ any thing of my own. Farewell, Great Sir,
 “ and disdain not to receive me into the number
 “ of your Friends; who shall ever manifest to-
 “ wards You the greatest affection, and the high-
 “ est veneration.”

Christ-Church, Oxford, Mar. 1, 1749.

One might justly imagine, from the strain of this Epistle, that it had been written to one of the most eminent regular Physicians in Lon-

* *Hæc habui, Vir ornatissime, quæ tecum in præsens communicarem; pluribus Te certè non morabor. Iniquum enim me fore Humano generi existimarem, si pretiosissimum tuum Tempus, quod ægrorum rebus feliciter adeo impendis, nugatoriis hisce literis ulterius tererem: pergas igitur miseris Mortalibus Salutem dare; pergas Artem nostram Ingenio tuo excolere, Scriptis illustrare, Nominis tui celebritate sustinere. Ignoscas interim Arrogantiæ meæ, quòd coram Te, tanto Rerum Medicarum judice, ausus fuerim aliquid proferre. Valeas, Vir Egregie, & Me, qui summo Studio, summâ Reverentiâ Te semper prosecuturus sum, in Amicorum Numerum recipere ne dedigneris.*

Dabam ex Æde Christi Oxon. Calendis Mart. 1749.

don s

don: but one could never suspect, that it was addressed to a Doctor at a Country-Town above fifty miles from thence; who had taken only a Foreign degree, was not either an *Intra* or *Extra-Licentiate* of the College in *London*, nor had ever been a Member of any in either of our Universities. And yet this Physician, under these disadvantages, by mere dint of genius, application, and practice, had emerged from the obscurity of the Country to such eminence in his profession, that this very *Promoter of exclusive agreements* speaks to him with all the respect and deference that can be due to the most celebrated Regular Physician in *London*. The discovery of the sovereign virtues of Salt Water, by One of his manner of education, may serve to lessen the prejudices of our domestic Physicians against it; by convincing them, that there are other roads leading to the temple of *Æsculapius*, besides those two through our Universities. This remarkable instance of a Foreign Graduate may likewise have a good effect upon such, who having too great partiality for the way in which they have been bred, are not contented with giving our University Degrees *that just preference* which they *ought* to have, but are for excluding and annihilating all others whatsoever. And his commendable example, in beginning and carrying on the practice of Physic in a fair, open, and generous manner, ought to shame all those, who valuing themselves very highly on their Academical honours, yet have stooped to the lowest compliances, and most disgraceful tricks, in order to creep into business; and do not even lay them aside, when they have no longer occasion for them.

For

For this Gentleman, rising gradually from a very moderate to a very ample Fortune, did not advance himself by any mean or base methods; *He* never made his court to any eminent Physician by betraying his Friend or acquaintance, in order to strut under the shadow of a great name, and magnify his own *thinness* by raising a mist of ostentatious Words; *He* never boasted of having *taken himself five pounds worth of Medicines in three days*, to reconcile his patients to the extravagant furniture of a sick man's table; *He* never endeavoured to undermine others of the profession by inventing or spreading, by himself or his emissaries, false and scandalous stories against them, and wounding their reputation in the dark; *He* never represented a Physician, because advanced in years, as infirm and incapable of bearing the fatigue of practice, at a time when every day's experience and success sufficiently contradicted the report, and shewed the baseness of the design: in short, *He* rose intirely by the noble *Art* of Physic, without the help of any of the little *artifices* of some Physicians.

As I have taken notice, Sir, of every part of your *Letter* to me, and given, I hope, an Answer satisfactory to the World, if not to Yourself; I shall now take the freedom to expostulate with You a little upon your extraordinary conduct towards me. As I never gave You the least provocation, I have often wondered at that conduct. When I endeavoured to be removed from the Hospital at *Ware* to that of *Hertford*, You opposed me in a very unfair and treacherous manner.—That I have spoke of this with too much
asperity

asperity no one can think, who calls to mind, that this malice of yours, having lain dormant above seven years, broke out lately with double violence, on occasion of my *Letter* to Dr. ADDINGTON. This having exposed his injurious treatment of me, in such a manner as to leave him no room for defence; to keep him a little in countenance under the contempt of the World, You write a *Letter* to him, to be shewn among his acquaintance, advising him to return no Answer at all to *mine*, adding by way of reason some particular instances relating to my Education, and to some ignorant practice of mine at *Ware*.

Could I by any means have discovered for certain what those instances were, I should in some of the preceding pages have returned a direct Answer to them: but having been denied a sight of your *Letter* by the Doctor, and a copy of it by Yourself, I can only guess at them from some circumstances.—As to my medicinal education; soon after your *Letter* had been shewed at this place, a ridiculous story ran about here, *That I was once in a very low station in an Apothecary's Shop*. This expression, being so very like one, which You made use of in your Speech at Christ's Hospital, That You had heard indeed; *that I was a little time in an Apothecary's Shop*; and You having assured me, that the *Contents* of the *Letter* and of the Speech were *the same*; I think, I have just reason to impute this report, either to You, or to the Doctor, or to Both. If You was the inventor, he was, I suppose, the improver and propagator: nor does the strict regard of either to veracity, with relation to me, render the supposition in the least improbable.

The

The fact upon which this story was founded was this: My Father being well acquainted with, and having done some service for Mr. CLUTTON, a Chemist in *Holborn*, who was likewise an Apothecary, prevailed with him, upon paying handsomely for my board, to permit me to see the manner of Chemical preparations; and the composition of Medicines, in his Laboratory and Shop: and as I was at that time about the age of twenty-one, I was under his direction no farther than my natural inclination to improvement led me.—As to the instance of my ignorant practice, it related, as the whispered rumour ran here, to something, I know not what, about a *Boy's scalled head*, which I could not cure. As the currency of this story began upon the divulging of your *Letter*, it is highly probable that it made a part of it: and as no other account can be given, how it came to be spread here, I take it for almost certain, that it had no other original. As to the fact itself, suppose it were true, it can affect me but very little, who all the time I was at *Ware*, never trusted to my own skill in any case of Surgery that was difficult, but constantly called in the assistance of a regular Surgeon, according to the example of Dr. WALLEY, who did the same at *Hertford*. That You mentioned this Case, or something like it, you consequentially aver in your *Letter* to me, when You assure me, that the *Reasons* given in your *Letter* to Dr. ADDINGTON were *the same with those assigned in your Speech*. But those who heard that speech declare, that You did not mention the least instance of my unskilful practice: and that You did not, is very certain, because You could not. For I have a short but ample Testimony, under

the hands of all the Governors of CHRIST'S *Hospital* who were at a late Committee of Almoners, of whom some had opposed my removal to *Hertford*, and all were Auditors of your Speech, * *That they never heard or received the least complaint against me, for want of skill in my profession, during the whole time I was Physician to their Hospital at Ware, and that my resignation was voluntary.*

There is one material observation upon the latter part of your *Letter*, which I had almost forgot to make, *viz.* That soon after you have positively declared, that the *Reasons* given in yours to Dr. ADDINGTON, were the same that You gave in the Committee, you conclude your Epistle in a more doubtful strain, *This Sr as near as I can GUESS was the contents of the Letter I wrote to Dr. ADDINGTON.* — This, Sir, is a very remarkable instance both of the strength, and of the weakness of your Memory. You remember, it seems, exactly the contents of a *Speech*, delivered above seven Years before ; but You can only guess at those of a *Letter* which had not been written above a Year : and yet the *contents* both of the one and of the other were the very same, and consequently, according to your own confession, You could do no more than barely guess at them.

Had You even certainly known that every thing advanced in your *Letter* was strictly and exactly true, this would not clear You from the imputation of having been very impertinent, officious, and pragmatical. What pretence had You to concern yourself in a Dispute between two Physicians, on a point, of which You could not in any

* See *Appendix*, Numb. IV.

respect be supposed to be a competent Judge? Where was *your* candour or humanity in endeavouring, without the least provocation from me, to lessen my reputation in these parts, by propagating some silly stories against me? This I say, on supposition of the truth of such stories being known to yourself: but if You thought them as likely to be false as true, I must charge you with calumny and slander. And how could You think them otherwise, since they were broached (if they were broached) during the heat of an Election; when generally any thing is said, true or false, to promote or obstruct the interest of the contending Candidates? It was in your power, without any great difficulty, to have informed yourself of the truth: yet it does not appear, that You made any inquiry into the report, but greedily swallowed it at once, and afterwards occasionally disgorged it secretly among proper company. Tho' nothing could really justify such a partial conduct, yet your zeal and eagerness to carry a point at that precise time, in favour of one of your Fraternity, might yield some shadow of excuse: but your deliberate revival of such calumny, after so many years, and to serve a much worse purpose, will admit of none.

But since I have actually proved these stories to be false, this aggravation gives me a right to bring a higher charge against You, and to expostulate with You in another strain. You wrote a *Letter* to a professed Enemy of mine, representing me as a person so unskilful in my Profession, that You thought yourself obliged to oppose my being elected some years ago, to take care of some Children at an Hospital; and therefore You advised him to return no manner of answer to the

complaints brought against him in a printed *Letter*, by one so much below his notice: adding, to shew my want of skill, some circumstances relating to my education, and my practice, which were absolutely false. How could a man of your supposed character renew such calumnies against me, after more than seven years space, when he might so easily have known the falshood of them at the very first? What motive could You possibly have to this dirty action? If You plead the defence of your Friend; I ask, Would You undertake his defence, without knowing whether he ought to be defended or not? And how could You know this, without knowing what I had alledged against him? Yet this You have the face and the folly to own You *never saw*. I charged him with a long series of injurious treatment, and many instances of falshood; which he neither disproves, nor makes the least excuse for. Such silence, in the like cases, is generally taken for an acknowledgment of the Charge. Yet this Charge You *advise* him to *despise*, and to continue his silence; and that for this sole reason, Because I am not worthy of his notice now, on the account of your imagining me to be unskilful above seven years ago. So that, whether I have received from him any injury or not, which You neither know, nor care, You advise him to make me no satisfaction, to return me no manner of answer. Thus You shew yourself to be an admirable Casuist, Adviser, and Advocate: your reasoning is suitable to your equity; your defence is adapted to the nature of the action You defend; and You justify your Friend's falshoods by the addition of your own.

Conscious, that You had justly exposed your-
self

self to imputations of this kind, and apprehensive of ill consequences to yourself, You refuse to let me know the contents of this *Letter* of yours. And your dear Friend, the *Doctor*, who propagated those contents in a private manner, being under the like apprehensions, with greater reason denied me a sight of them. Being thus industriously kept in ignorance, I am not at all blameable, if I suspect somewhat of the darkest and blackest nature.—But not to insist on this. The plain and evident design of it was to excuse him by defaming me; and that in so clandestine and dark a manner, that I should not be able to do myself justice. An open enemy, who abuses a man to his face, and gives him an opportunity of defending himself, acts with the appearance of courage and generosity. But he, who defames him behind his back, taking care to conceal the slander as long as possible from him, that it may do him the more mischief, betrays a sneaking and dastardly spirit; and shews that he is both ashamed of what he is doing, and afraid of being discovered and called to an account for it. In this respect, the writers of private *defamatory Letters* resemble those who are concerned in sending such as are called *incendiary*; and in those circumstances by which they differ, there are two which are less in favour of the former than of the latter. For these are generally poor despicable wretches, compelled by their necessities to make such felonious demands; and the persons upon whom they are made are left to their own choice, whether they will comply with them or not; which if they do, they know the utmost of their loss and damage: the same may likewise be said with respect to those who are robbed in the dark. But in the other case,
the

the sufferer has no choice allowed him, the mischief has no visible bounds, nor can he possibly compute the utmost of his loss and damage.

You will object perhaps, that the Cases are by no means parallel, since both the Incendiary Writer, and the Street-Robber, take those desperate courses, in order to supply their immediate necessities by taking away the property of others: but for your part, You proposed not the least advantage to yourself, but acted solely upon the generous principle of assisting your Friend.—I did not produce the Cases as exactly parallel, but only as being alike in some respects, which answer my purpose: and as to the generosity of your design, a little variation of the latter case will clearly illustrate that.—Having been attacked and plundered in the night, by a person whom I happen to know; I soon afterwards meet him in the public street, and lay hold upon him: You, accidentally coming along, take his part, and slide arms into his hands, by which means he escapes out of mine, and runs away. You will still deny the circumstance of the Robbery, because nothing pecuniary is lost by me, and gained by him. But if my good name be taken from me, I cannot but look upon myself as robbed of what is most valuable, tho' the Robber add nothing to his own stock, by depriving me of any part of mine.

The tossing about and spreading of scandalous stories, in the quarrels of others, is a vile work, in which a man cannot secure his own reputation from receiving some spot and blemish. The dispersing of any such false or dubious report against another, who has even first abused him, is utterly inexcusable; and even, if the report be true, not at all to be justified, unless it tend directly to his
own

own self-vindication. In this case, the World is generally so just, as to condemn the person, who appears to have charged another with a fault, or a foible, to the imputation of which he himself is obnoxious. And doubtless in the large scene of your practice You have met with several Cases, in which You could do no good; as what Surgeon has not? From which, according to your own way of arguing, I might justly infer your greater ignorance in your business, than You have endeavoured to fix upon me in mine. Instances I might perhaps easily collect, and produce against You by a most equitable retaliation. For since your stratagems against me had been all vain and insignificant, had not some persons in these parts entertained too great an opinion of your prowess, and looked upon You as compleatly armed and invulnerable; I may fairly in my own defence attack You where your armour seems to be weakest, and if I can, even snatch away your whole shield at once. But it will be time enough to put this in execution, when You fall upon me the third time. In the mean while, I desire You seriously to consider the Case of a Surgeon, once as eminent as Yourself, and whom You formerly intimately knew, tho', it is said, You have for some time dropped all acquaintance with him. This Gentleman, after a long course of practice, happened to be the occasion of three misfortunes, within the narrow compass of three months: a Baronet lost the use of his arm, and two Ladies their lives, by his unskilful use of the Lancet. Now he could not be apprehensive of any great danger from a prosecution on any of these accounts: for no Jury could have brought in the death of the two Ladies either *Wilful murder* or

Man-

Man-slaughter, but must necessarily have termed it *Chance-medley*; and with respect to the mad Baronet, the Surgeon might have pleaded, that the taking away the use of his arm was the preservation of his life, by preventing him from * stabbing himself a second time. Yet for all this, being a person of a very tender conscience, excessive modesty, and great prudence, he could not bear the sinister interpretations, which he foresaw the unthinking vulgar would put upon these little accidents, and thereby probably hinder him from doing any more good among them. He therefore wisely determined to change the sphere of his activity; accordingly he retired far from *London*, and settled in the Country; where he passed for one of great skill, who having acquired a good Fortune, by his art, had made a voluntary retreat thither in order to enjoy it.

But passing by this Surgeon, and returning, Sir, to You; after all which I have said to expose your malicious practices against me, I know not how to imagine, that You could possibly retain in your mind, without the least provocation from me, such a constant, inveterate malevolence, for seven or eight years together. And am therefore rather inclined to think, that it only resembles some chronical distemper, such as gout or stone; with which a man is not continually tormented; but has often long intervals of ease, succeeded by frequent fits, which are brought on by the change of the seasons, or of the weather, or by some other accidental cause. And as these fits generally return with greater strength and vio-

* See Mrs. CON. PHILLIPS's *Apology*.

lence, they often cause no small disturbance in the *Head*. This last circumstance confirms me in my opinion : for I cannot believe, that You could have written such a *Letter*, unless the inside of *your Head* had been more out of order, than the outside of the Boy's scalled head, whom You are supposed to have mentioned. Nor is this the least reflection upon the brightness of your parts at other times, but rather a full acknowledgment of their perfection. For it has been observed long ago, that there is scarce any extraordinary genius in any profession, who has not now and then some little mixture of phrenetical ferment. The contexture of the brain in such heads is woven so fine, that impressions are easily made upon it by alterations that happen in the air, by vapours and exhalations that arise from the earth, and by the *effluvia* that are emitted from flowers. And since You have of late years frequently resided in a Country where beans are much cultivated, it is not at all strange, that your delicate constitution should at some particular season be much affected by them. Your *Letter* to Dr. ADDINGTON, if I am rightly informed, was written when they were in full blossom ; and at that time, according to the observation of a learned Physician, such strong effluvia are diffused by them, as infect the circumambient air ; which being conveyed to the brain, subverts its temperature, and causes some perturbation of mind. Hence arose the *French proverb*,

*Quand les Feves sont en fleur,
Les Fous sont en vigueur.*

Which may be thus imitated in *English* ;

*When Beans are in flower,
Folly reigns in full power.*

But lest the term *Fous*, which signifies *Mad-men* as well as *Fools*, should by its harshness give any offence, I think it necessary to observe, that in each sense it denotes two very different sorts of persons. When applied to *Fools*, it signifies not only those, who either never had, or have lost the use of Reason, so far as to be habitually incapable of judging and acting right; but likewise those, who now and then only act improperly and contrary to common sense. In like manner when it has the signification of *Mad-men*, tho' it mean principally such as are so much disordered in their minds as to be unfit to be trusted with their liberty; yet it is frequently and justly applied to those, who giving themselves up to their own fancies and passions, act wildly and extravagantly, on some particular occasions.—It is not in the first and strict signification, but in the latter, and more extensive, that I produce this proverb.

By thus imputing your conduct towards me to some transient acts of folly or phrensy, and thereby representing it as involuntary, I shew my willingness, not to aggravate, but to excuse it. But I am at the same time under some apprehension of being accused of partiality, in treating You with more tenderness than I did your Friend the Doctor; since your conduct, tho' not less weak and unreasonable, was certainly in all appearance more malicious. Being sensible of this omission, I think myself obliged to supply it here, by acknowledging, that the Doctor had at least

as

as good a title to a favourable interpretation of *his* words and actions, on the same account with yourself. And this I mention the more readily, because it will be a full proof of what I hinted just now, how little these occasional starts of folly or phrensy affect the character of an ingenious man : since whatever disadvantage such a one may seem to incur thereby, he is generally so happy as to find proper resources, and even to convert them sometimes into advantages.

About the same time that the Doctor was so clandestinely and unjustly attacking me, he was seized with a fit of *Oecomany*, and had begun to erect two spacious edifices, partly upon *another man's premisses*, and entirely upon a *sandy foundation* : two mistakes in building, which to persons of smaller genius might have proved very detrimental. But He, by a peculiar address, made one of these inconveniences indemnify him from the other ; obliging his Builder to purchase according to Law a large Cargo of *Sand*, unexpectedly found upon the premisses, at such a price as might assist him in paying for the ground on which he had inadvertently built. Delighted with his new habitation, he grew daily more and more in love with ease and study : which the Gentlemen round about were loth to interrupt, fearing, 'tis probable, that their calling him so frequently to their assistance as formerly, might impair his health, and retard, if not entirely hinder, the finishing of some great Work in Physic ; which being the fruit of long practice and experience, the not publishing of it might be of very ill consequence to the world. But the pleasure of this studious life in one of his stately edifices so fully furnished, was pretty much allayed by the empti-

ness of the other ; which he hoped would soon have drawn in some substantial tenant ; but which he found to be of no other use than to reverberate the sound of his voice, whenever he thought fit to read aloud, either the works of other persons, or his own. This occasioned various thoughts, To what use to put it : when, revolving in his mind, what diseases were most predominant, and to which he might prescribe remedies without the fatigue of any troublesome journey, he concluded that extravagant folly and madness had of late years grown more and more epidemical ; and that these distempers were the properest for him to undertake. He had been informed by the News-papers, that neither the additional Cells which had been made, nor those designed to be made, in *Old Bedlam*, had been found sufficient to contain the increasing numbers of *Lunatics* ; and that therefore it had been thought necessary to erect a *New Bedlam*, in an *opposite* situation to the other. But how large soever this might prove, your Friend was sensible, that it must be a work of time ; and that the *Lymphatics* in this Country would continue to be exposed to the usual inconveniencies, from the distance of place, and the difficulty of gaining admission. He therefore generously determined to fit up his adjoining edifice in convenient apartments for such, to be let *at reasonable rates*, thirty or forty shillings each by the week. It cannot be well supposed, but that the Doctor had privately applied himself, for some years, to study the cases of such persons : otherwise his *great modesty* and *diffidence of himself* would not have permitted him to undertake this branch of Medicine ; nor would any of his acquaintance be inclined to put their distracted friends

friends under his care, unless they were themselves under the influence of the same distemper. But supposing him to have qualified himself in a complete manner, which doubtless was the case; this adds much to the merit of the undertaking, as it may well be interpreted to have proceeded chiefly from a desire to do good, and to secure his patients from falling into the hands of ignorant pretenders. The extraordinary advantage indeed, arising from the weekly care of only twelve persons, (whereas his House might hold double that number) at 18*l.* a week, which amounts to 936*l.* *per annum*, may occasion some little suspicion, that this project was not intirely free from motives of interest. But then it ought to be remembered, that, bad as the world is represented by some popular declaimers, yet generous and disinterested Schemes are attended sometimes, even in this degenerate age, with extraordinary success, and doubly repay the Inventors of them. This, I think, is likely to meet with the general approbation of the People in this Country; and with the addition of one single circumstance, must infallibly succeed: which being entirely in your power, as a man of much leisure, cannot be, I am certain, contrary to your inclination, if You are really a person of that benevolence, which You have often declared yourself to be. What I mean is, That You would vouchsafe to attend this new Hospital as a Surgeon, only for a year or two. The united care of two Persons, so eminent in their different professions, would obviate all objections; and soon raise and establish its reputation above the power of the envious and malicious to shake it.

Nor

Nor is this Propofal at all inconfiftent with any thing before advanced, the being a little fubject to the fame malady one's felf, being no difqualification for undertaking the cure of it in others. Phyficians and Surgeons are liable to all the difeafes in which they profefs to give others relief; upon whom tho' they cannot attend, when they are actually under the fame themfelves, yet, upon recovery, they are rather the more fit for that employment. A tranfient fit of folly or phrenfy may juftly be compared to the paroxyfm of a Fever; by which the underftanding may be fubverted for a time, but foon returns to its former ftrength and vigour. And confequently when a whimfical Doctor or Surgeon comes to himfelf, he is as capable as ever of plying the diftracted with Cathartics or Phlebotomy, by turns: for one of which your *great Friend* is not more eminent, than *You* are for the other. Your acting jointly or feparately, as occafion may require, cannot but be of great fervice both to your patients and yourfelves: for whenever the one is attacked by a fit, the other may fupply his place among them, and *You* may alternately manage and difcipline each other. The greateft inconvenience would be, if *You* fhould unfeafonably be difpofed to take lofty flights both together. But this is a cafe which can probably happen but very feldom; and can draw after it no ill confequence, if *You*, by way of precaution, directly fettle an exact regimen, conftantly to be obferved, by the inferiour attendants on your Patients.

It is reported of CARNEADES the Academic, that whenever he was to ingage in difputation, he purged his brains with a dofe of *Hellebore*; and

and that the success always answered the experiment. This plainly shews the use of Antimaniacal remedies, not only when a person is actually in a state of *Insanity*, but likewise when he is intirely free from it; to prevent its return, and to brighten the wit and understanding during a lucid interval. Here You will have the most convenient opportunities of trying the virtue of these Medicines; which, as the Doctor is a great *Academic*, it is highly probable You will do in a short time, in imitation of the example I have mentioned. And tho' I suspect, that when You come to lay your prepared heads together, You will club your wits towards some nominal *Answer*, and I may suffer from the hints here given You; I am pleased that I have persisted in the fairness and freedom of this Letter to the end. From which, in conjunction with my former, I imagine, the World will be apt to conclude, that no man in his right senses could send such Letters as Yours to the Doctor and ME, or make such speeches as You *both* have done against,

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

RICHARD RUSSEL.

Reading, March 18,

1750.

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APPENDIX.

NUMBER I.

The LICENSE of the College of PHYSICIANS.

SCIANT Omnes Nos HENRICUM PLUMPTRE
Medicinæ Doctorem et Præsidem Collegii
Medicorum Londinensium, unà cum con-
sensu TANCREDI ROBINSON, THOMÆ PELLET,
et JOHANNIS GARDINER, Sociorum et Electorum
Collegii prædicti, autoritate nobis Domino Rege
et Parlamento concessa, examinasse et appro-
basse die vicesimo tertio Mensis Julii Annoque
Domini 1742, probum Virum RICHARDUM
RUSSEL, in Academia Remensi, M. D. bene in
Praxi Medicâ exercitatum, eumque dignum judi-
camus qui admittatur ad praxin Medicinæ per
Universum Angliæ Regnum, excepto Londino et
per septem abinde Milliaria. In cujus rei Testi-
monium sigilla nostra apposuimus et Nomina ad-
scripsimus. Datum Londini in Collegio nostro die
Mense Annoque supradictis.

H. PLUMPTRE,	Præsides.
TANCRED ROBINSON,	Elect.
THOMAS PELLET,	Elect.
JO: GARDINER,	Elect.
H	NUMBER

NUMBER II.

Feb. 3, 1740.

RICHARD RUSSEL, M. D. having practised
Physic with good success at HODDESDON near
WARE, for about two Years; we think him well
qualified to succeed Dr. GRINDAL in the care of
the health of the Blue-coat Boys at WARE, be-
longing to CHRIST'S-HOSPITAL in *London*.

R. MEAD,
PEIRCE DOD,
J. MONRO.

NUMBER III.

At a Committee of ALMONERS in
CHRIST'S-HOSPITAL, *London*; on
Thursday the 5th Feb. 1740.

TO this Committee were read the Petitions of
WILLIAM WEBB Surgeon, JAMES FLEM-
ING Apothecary, and RICHARD RUSSEL M. D.
to supply the vacancy of a Physician at WARE
in the room of Dr. *Grindal* deceased; and after
they were severally called in and examined as to
their qualifications they were severally put up to
the Question, when it appeared that Dr. RUSSEL
was unanimously elected Physician to the children
at WARE, in the room of Dr. *Grindal*, deceased,
who being called in, and acquainted therewith,
returned the Committee thanks.

W^m BROCKET, *Cl.*

NUMBER IV.

THESE are to certify, That We never heard or received the least Complaint against Dr. RICHARD RUSSEL for want of skill in his Profession, during the time he was Physician to our Children at WARE; and that his resignation was voluntary. Witness our hands this 19th of June 1750, at the Compting-House in CHRIST'S-HOSPITAL, *London*.

Phil. Scarth, Treasurer.

Sam. Ballard,

Rob. Cranmer,

Tho. Sandford,

Rich. Bridgman,

John Markham.

NUMBER V.

The Testimonial of MONSIEUR GREGOIRE, an eminent Man-midwife at *Paris*.

EGO infrà scriptus Chirurgus obstetricans, Artium Magister, Sociusque Regiæ Academiæ chirurgiæ Parisiensis, Testor omnibus quorum interest, aut interesse poterit, DOMINUM RICHARDUM RUSSEL, Middlesexensem in Anglia, Medicinæ Doctorem, toto incubuisse animo ad artem obstetricatoriam illamque sub meis oculis factitasse,
meis

per tres menses summâ dexteritate, oblectamento, levamentoque publico, et assiduè Prælectionibus meis supra Partuum Manuarium adfuisse; totumque artis obstetricatoriæ cursum peregisse. In cujus rei fidem subscripsi et sigillum apposui, datum Parisiis die Lunæ Octobris vigesimo septimo anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo trigesimo octavo.

L. GREGOIRE.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

PAGE 4. Line 12. r. University's. P. 29. at the Bottom add, See Dr. RUSSEL of Lewes's Book *De Tabæ Glandulari, sive de usu Aquæ Marinæ in Morbis Glandularum.*